concerned region. The RLDC discharges its functions in accordance, inter alia, with the Grid Code specified by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). CERC has notified the Grid Code which provides, inter alia, for technical rules for operation, maintenance, development and planning of economic and reliable regional grid. Every grid constituent including the generating company owning and operating the mega power plant is required to comply with the grid code specified by the Commission. The Act has adequate provisions to deal with violation of the rules and regulations made thereunder.

Power situation in Assam

259. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply position of power in Assam, specifying the target set for coverving all the villages, agencies entrusted, alongwith modernization and reforms programmes undertaken in the power distribution sector;

(b) the achievements made in this regard, stating the support extended by the Central Government;

(c) the implementation status of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) and Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidhyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), with specific amount of funds released and utilized so far, in all the districts of Assam;

(d) whether all the districts of the State are covered under these programmes;

(e) if so, the status thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and by when all the districts would be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) The requirement of power during September 2008 in Assam was 460 MU while availability of power was 412 MU. The peak demand and peak met during September 2008 was 830 MU and 770 MU respectively.

Assam State Electricity Regularity Commission (ASERC) has been constituted. Three tariff orders have been issued by ASERC. Assam State Electricity Board has been unbundled into one generation Company, one transmission company and three distribution companies.

Government of India had sanctioned 15 projects amounting to Rs. 650.73 crore under investment component of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for Assam, out of which APDRP component to be borne by Government of India is Rs. 601.54 crore. Government of India had already released Rs. 596.23 crores. State of Assam has utilised Rs. 532.58 crores so far. Projects sanctioned under APDRP cover the districts viz. Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Kamprup (Metro), Kamprup (Rural), North Cachar Hills, Hailakandi, Jorhat, Karimganj, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Darang, Marigaon, Nagaon, Sibsagar, Cachar and Tinsukia. The Government have approved the continuation of APDRP during the Eleventh Five Year Plan with revised terms and conditions as a Central Sector

Scheme. The focus of the programme is on actual, demonstrable performance in terms of loss reduction. Projects under the scheme are to be taken up in Two Parts. Part-A is to include the projects for establishment of baseline data and IT applications for energy accounting / auditing and IT based consumer service centers. Part-B includes regular distribution strengthening projects. The scheme is being operationalised by Ministry of Power.

Under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), Government of India has sanctioned 23 Projects amounting to Rs.1660.35 crore. The State Government has availed Rs.133.60 crore as on 16.09.2008 and has reportedly utilized the same. The implementing agencies have reported that works have been carried out in 192 un-electrified villages besides intensification works carried out in 280 already electrified villages as on 16.09.2008. The implementing agencies have also reported release of 1360 BPL household connections as on 16.09.2008. Projects for all the 23 districts of Assam have been sanctioned. The State Government of Assam has assigned execution of RGGVY works in seven districts namely Cachar, Dibrugarh, Hailakandi, Karimganj Kokrajhar, Sibsagar and sonitpur to Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) and the works in balance 16 districts are to be carried out by Assam State Electricity Board (ASEB).

Functioning of APDRP

260. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) has targeted to bring down aggregate technical and commercial losses of power utilities to fifteen per cent, within five years;

(b) whether Government has provided the support for State power utilities for the projects under APDRP and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government intends to make this support to States conditional, as a performance based incentive, rather than an assured one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Government had launched Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) in the year 2002-03 with the objective of encouraging reforms and of reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT and C) loss, improving quality of supply of power and improving consumer satisfaction. The target was to reduce AT and C losses to 15% in five years in urban and high density consumption areas, to begin with.

(b) Government of India had sanctioned projects amounting to Rs.17033.58 crore under the investment component for strengthening and upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution systems of the States. The States have so far utilized Rs.11279.50 crores. An amount of Rs. 2879.73 crore has also been released to nine states for achieving reduction in cash losses under the incentive component of the programme.

(c) The Government have approved the continuation of Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) during the Eleventh Five Year Plan with revised terms and